

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the
District of New Hampshire**SEALED DOCUMENT**

In the Matter of the Search of

*(Briefly describe the property to be searched
or identify the person by name and address)*

Case No. 1:21-mj- 12-01-AJ

THE PREMISES KNOWN AS 2 1/2 SPALDING ST, NASHUA, NEW
HAMPSHIRE, DESCRIBED FULLY IN ATTACHMENT A,
INCLUDING OUTBUILDINGS, AND GARAGES, LOCATED
THEREON, AND THE PERSON OF DAVID DION**APPLICATION FOR A WARRANT BY TELEPHONE OR OTHER RELIABLE ELECTRONIC MEANS**I, a federal law enforcement officer or an attorney for the government, request a search warrant and state under penalty of perjury that I have reason to believe that on the following person or property *(identify the person or describe the property to be searched and give its location)*:

Please see attachment A.

located in the _____ District of New Hampshire, there is now concealed *(identify the person or describe the property to be seized)*:

Please see attachment B.

The basis for the search under Fed. R. Crim. P. 41(c) is *(check one or more)*:

- ☒ evidence of a crime;
- ☒ contraband, fruits of crime, or other items illegally possessed;
- ☒ property designed for use, intended for use, or used in committing a crime;
- ☐ a person to be arrested or a person who is unlawfully restrained.

The search is related to a violation of:

*Code Section**Offense Description*

18 U.S.C. 2252(a)(2)

- Attempted Receipt of Child Pornography

The application is based on these facts:

Please see attached affidavit.

- ☒ Continued on the attached sheet.
- ☐ Delayed notice of _____ days *(give exact ending date if more than 30 days)* _____ is requested under 18 U.S.C. § 3103a, the basis of which is set forth on the attached sheet.

/s/ Shawn Serra*Applicant's signature*Special Agent Shawn Serra, HSI*Printed name and title*

Attested to by the applicant in accordance with the requirements of Fed. R. Crim. P. 4.1 by

Telephonic conference*(specify reliable electronic means).*Date: 01/13/2021Andrea K. Johnstone*Judge's signature*City and state: Concord, New HampshireHon. Andrea K. Johnstone, U.S. Magistrate Judge*Printed name and title*

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE MATTER OF THE SEARCH OF
THE PREMISES KNOWN AS 2 ½
SPALDING ST, NASHUA, NEW
HAMPSHIRE, DESCRIBED FULLY IN
ATTACHMENT A, INCLUDING
OUTBUILDINGS, AND GARAGES,
LOCATED THEREON, AND THE
PERSON OF DAVID DION

Case No. 1:21-mj-_____

Filed Under Seal – Level II

AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF
APPLICATION FOR SEARCH WARRANT

I, Shawn Serra, a Special Agent with Homeland Security Investigations (“HSI”), being
duly sworn, depose and state as follows:

1. I have been employed as an HSI Special Agent since June of 2005, and am currently assigned to the Manchester, New Hampshire, Resident Office. I graduated from the University of Massachusetts, Lowell, Massachusetts with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice. In 2003, I graduated from the University of Massachusetts, Lowell, Massachusetts with a Master of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice. I have also received training in the areas of child sexual exploitation including violations pertaining to possession, distribution, and production of child pornography by attending a twenty-three-week training program at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in Glynco, Georgia. As part of my duties, I have observed and reviewed examples of child pornography (as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 2256) in various forms of media, to include digital/computer media. During the course of this investigation, I have also conferred with other investigators who specialize in computer forensics and who have conducted numerous investigations which involved child sexual exploitation offenses.

2. I make this affidavit in support of an application under Rule 41 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure for a warrant to search the premises located at 2 ½ Spalding St., Nashua, NH (hereafter "SUBJECT PREMISES"), further described in Attachment A, including one residential dwelling; any computer, computer media, and electronic media located therein; and the person of David Dion, for the things described in Attachment B—specifically, evidence, fruits, and instrumentalities of violations of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252(a)(2), which relates to the illegal receipt of child pornography and attempt, and Title 18 United States Code. Section 2422(b), which relates to attempted online enticement of children.

3. During the course of this investigation I have conferred with other investigators who have conducted numerous investigations and executed numerous search and arrest warrants which involved child exploitation and/or child pornography offenses. This affidavit is intended to show only that there is sufficient probable cause for the requested warrant and does not set forth all of my knowledge about this matter. The facts set forth in this affidavit are based in part on my personal knowledge, information obtained during my participation in this investigation, information from others, including law enforcement officers, my review of documents and computer records related to this investigation, and information gained through my training and experience.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

4. This investigation concerns alleged violations of 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(2), related to the receipt and attempted receipt of child pornography in the District of New Hampshire. 18 U.S.C. § 2252A(a)(2) makes it a crime for any person to knowingly receive or distribute any child pornography (images of children under 18 engaging in sexually explicit conduct) that has been mailed, or using any means or facility of interstate or foreign commerce shipped or transported in

or affecting interstate or foreign commerce by any means, including by computer. The statute also criminalizes attempt.

5. The investigation also concerns alleged violations of 18 U.S.C. § 2422(b), related to attempted online enticement. The statute makes it a crime to “knowingly persuade, induce, entice, or coerce any individual who has not attained the age of 18 years, to engage in prostitution or any sexual activity for which any person can be charged with a criminal offense” or to attempt to do so. In New Hampshire, it would be a crime for a 41-year-old male to engage in sexual acts with a 14-year-old child.

DEFINITIONS

6. “Child pornography” includes any visual depiction, including any photograph, film, video, picture, or computer or computer-generated image or picture, whether made or produced by electronic, mechanical, or other means, of sexually explicit conduct where (A) the production of the visual depiction involved the use of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct; (B) the visual depiction was a digital image, computer image, or computer-generated image that is, or is indistinguishable from, that of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct; or (C) the visual depiction has been created, adapted, or modified to appear that an identifiable minor is engaged in sexually explicit conduct. 18 U.S.C. § 2256(8).

7. “Child Erotica,” as used herein, means materials or items that are sexually arousing to persons having a sexual interest in minors but that are not, in and of themselves, legally obscene or that do not necessarily depict minors in sexually explicit conduct.

8. “Computer,” as used herein, is defined pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1030(e)(1) as “an electronic, magnetic, optical, electrochemical, or other high speed data processing device performing logical or storage functions, and includes any data storage facility or communications

facility directly related to or operating in conjunction with such device. "These devices include but are not limited to any data-processing hardware (such as central processing units, memory typewriters, mobile "smart" telephones, tablets, and self-contained "laptop" or "notebook" computers).

9. "Computer hardware," as used herein, consists of all equipment which can receive, capture, collect, analyze, create, display, convert, store, conceal, or transmit electronic, magnetic, or similar computer impulses or data. Computer hardware includes any data-processing devices (including, but not limited to, central processing units, internal and peripheral storage devices such as fixed disks, external hard drives, floppy disk drives and diskettes, and other memory storage devices); peripheral input/output devices (including, but not limited to, keyboards, printers, video display monitors, and related communications devices such as cables and connections), as well as any devices, mechanisms, or parts that can be used to restrict access to computer hardware (including, but not limited to, physical keys and locks).

10. "Computer software," as used herein, is digital information which can be interpreted by a computer and any of its related components to direct the way they work. Computer software is stored in electronic, magnetic, or other digital form. It commonly includes programs to run operating systems, applications, and utilities.

11. "Computer-related documentation," as used herein, consists of written, recorded, printed, or electronically stored material which explains or illustrates how to configure or use computer hardware, computer software, or other related items.

12. "Computer passwords, pass-phrases and data security devices," as used herein, consist of information or items designed to restrict access to or hide computer software, documentation, or data. Data security devices may consist of hardware, software, or other programming code. A

password or pass-phrase (a string of alpha-numeric characters) usually operates as a sort of digital key to “unlock” particular data security devices. Data security hardware may include encryption devices, chips, and circuit boards. Data security software of digital code may include programming code that creates “test” keys or “hot” keys, which perform certain pre-set security functions when touched. Data security software or code may also encrypt, compress, hide, or “booby-trap” protected data to make it inaccessible or unusable, as well as reverse the process to restore it.

13. “Minor” means any person under the age of eighteen years. See 18 U.S.C. § 2256(1).

14. The terms “records,” “documents,” and “materials,” as used herein, include all information recorded in any form, visual or aural, and by any means, whether in handmade form (including, but not limited to, writings, drawings, painting), photographic form (including, but not limited to, microfilm, microfiche, prints, slides, negatives, videotapes, motion pictures, photocopies), mechanical form (including, but not limited to, phonograph records, printing, typing) or electrical, electronic or magnetic form (including, but not limited to, tape recordings, cassettes, compact discs, electronic or magnetic storage devices such as floppy diskettes, hard disks, CD-ROMs, digital video disks (“DVDs”), Personal Digital Assistants (“PDAs”), Multi Media Cards (“MMCs”), memory sticks, optical disks, printer buffers, smart cards, memory calculators, electronic dialers, or electronic notebooks, as well as digital data files and printouts or readouts from any magnetic, electrical or electronic storage device).

15. “Sexually explicit conduct” means actual or simulated (a) sexual intercourse, including genital-genital, oral-genital, or oral-anal, whether between persons of the same or opposite sex; (b) bestiality; (c) masturbation; (d) sadistic or masochistic abuse; or (e) lascivious exhibition of the genitals or pubic area of any person. See 18 U.S.C. § 2256(2).

16. “Visual depictions” include undeveloped film and videotape, and data stored on computer disk or by electronic means, which is capable of conversion into a visual image. See 18 U.S.C. § 2256(5).

PROBABLE CAUSE

17. On or about December 11, 2020, a Nashua, New Hampshire, Police Department Detective was acting in an undercover capacity (“UC”) on the application Meet Me and noticed the profile of someone who identified himself as “David” age 41, living in Nashua, New Hampshire. The detective recognized the profile picture as David Dion (“DION”), a 41-year-old registered sex offender living in Nashua who he had interacted with in the past. Using his undercover profile, he began a conversation with DION and informed him that he was a 14-year-old girl living in Nashua. Immediately after telling DION the UC’s age (“14 F”), DION responded, “Are u real . . . U a cop.” The UC did not tell DION that he was a police officer and continued to present himself as a 14-year-old child. The conversation continued and DION said that he was “trying to find [himself] a chick.” As the conversation progressed, DION asked the UC what she was wearing, and eventually discussed performing sexual acts with her. For example, DION wrote, “u can suck my cock and make me cum” and later, “I would rub your butt or stick my fingers in u.” He asked her, “u laying in your pantys” and when the UC responded, “I have yogas on” he wrote, “can I come over and take them off u.” Shortly after saying that, he confirmed, “u told me u are 14 and u live in Nashua NH.” Shortly thereafter, he discussed having sex with her saying, “I put my cock inside your pussy and I fuck the shit out of u.” He also discussed whether he would wear a condom when he had sex with her and asked her whether she would tell his wife about what happened.

18. At the request of the UC, the conversation moved from Meet Me to the text messaging application WhatsApp. DION advised the UC he was creating a WhatsApp account to speak with her and provided the UC with his telephone number of (603) 507-5006. This number matched the number listed for DION on his most recent Sex Offender Registration. Over additional conversation that day on WhatsApp, DION requested that the UC send him sexually explicit photographs. Some excerpts of that portion of the conversation are as follows:

[12/11/20, 3:32:15 PM] DION: I hope u take me a good pic lol

[12/11/20, 3:42:06 PM] UC: Like what

[12/11/20, 3:43:18 PM] DION: What ever u want to show me

[12/11/20, 3:43:31 PM] UC: Wym?

[12/11/20, 3:44:25 PM] DION: What do u want to show me

[12/11/20, 3:45:13 PM] UC: Idk I was just going to take a pic of my face lol

[12/11/20, 3:45:46 PM] DION: I want to see the hole body baby

[12/11/20, 3:50:48 PM] DION: Show me the hole body lol

[12/11/20, 3:53:00 PM] DION: Hunny we're u go

[12/11/20, 3:53:04 PM] UC: I'm here

[12/11/20, 3:53:11 PM] UC: I can't message as quick cause my moms home

[12/11/20, 3:53:18 PM] UC: Wym my whole body?

[12/11/20, 3:53:31 PM] DION: Ya the hole body Hun

[12/11/20, 3:53:40 PM] DION: Hurry take me a pic

[12/11/20, 3:57:05 PM] UC: I gotta sneak her phone when she isn't looking

[12/11/20, 3:57:08 PM] UC: Why hurry?

[12/11/20, 3:59:23 PM] DION: Lol I'm kiddin

[12/11/20, 4:01:44 PM] DION: Get her phone hunny

[12/11/20, 4:02:06 PM] UC: I can't she is using it

[12/11/20, 4:02:13 PM] UC: I'm only going to take a face pic

[12/11/20, 4:02:57 PM] DION: Dam

[12/11/20, 4:08:25 PM] UC: What?

[12/11/20, 4:08:54 PM] DION: I won't know if u have a nice butt

[12/11/20, 4:09:35 PM] UC: Lol sorry

[12/11/20, 4:10:06 PM] DION: Babe try

[12/11/20, 4:11:50 PM] DION: Do u want me

[12/11/20, 4:12:09 PM] UC: Wym?

[12/11/20, 4:12:39 PM] DION: What are u saying lol

[12/11/20, 4:12:58 PM] UC: Lol wym = what you mean

[12/11/20, 4:13:21 PM] DION: Do u want to have sex with me

[12/11/20, 4:14:46 PM] UC: Idk

[12/11/20, 4:14:51 PM] UC: Do u want to with me?

[12/11/20, 4:15:08 PM] DION: All up to u hunny

[12/11/20, 4:17:41 PM] DION: I'll think about if u send me a good pic

[12/11/20, 4:18:04 PM] UC: Wym a good one?

[12/11/20, 4:19:35 PM] DION: Ya a good pics if full naked pics lol

[12/11/20, 4:20:07 PM] UC: Ohhh

[12/11/20, 4:20:13 PM] UC: Like no clothes on?

[12/11/20, 4:20:30 PM] DION: Ya lol

...

[12/11/20, 4:31:24 PM] DION: Lol u better take me a pic of that pussy lol

[12/11/20, 4:34:29 PM] DION: Well talk to u latter

[12/11/20, 4:35:04 PM] UC: Lol u want me to take one of my vagina?

[12/11/20, 4:35:39 PM] DION: Lol if u want too

[12/11/20, 4:37:41 PM] UC: Idk lol

[12/11/20, 4:37:53 PM] DION: Up too u

[12/11/20, 4:38:07 PM] UC: Oh I thought u wanted me to

[12/11/20, 4:38:51 PM] DION: Baby if u want too try to send me a pic

19. David Dion was previously convicted of a violation of New Hampshire Revised Statutes Annotated 649-B:4, Certain Uses of Computer Service Prohibited, in Hillsborough County Superior Court South on February 26, 2009 and is therefore required to register as a sex offender in the state of New Hampshire. DION is required to report any changes in his contact information and online identifiers or accounts to the Nashua Police Department. On or about December 22, 2020, he contacted the Nashua PD to tell them that he had a new phone number and wanted to come to the police department to update his paperwork. When DION was at the police department he met with Detective Abrams who specifically asked if he was using Meet Me as he had previously reported a Meet Me account with the username "boy toy." DION confirmed that he was but did not believe he was using the account name "boy toy" any longer. When Detective Abrams asked what email account was registered with Meet Me, DION said he did not know, handed the officer his phone and said something to the effect of, "you can look through it and see if you can find it." Detective Abrams reviewed the Meet Me application and noted the profile photograph and email associated with the account. Detective Abrams later

confirmed that it was the same photograph associated with the account used to communicate with the UC.

20. According to his sex offender registry, DION has accounts with Facebook and Plenty of Fish, an online dating website. I know that Facebook and Plenty of Fish are applications that allow messaging similar to Meet Me and I believe therefore that evidence of related crimes may be found on these applications. DION told the UC that he was on the website trying to meet a “chick” and therefore I believe he may have had similar conversations with other minors. Also, his prior conviction was based on a sexual conversation and attempted meeting, purportedly to engage in sexual acts, with another undercover officer posing as a minor child located in Hudson, New Hampshire. I also know that many of the applications I have discussed can be accessed both from telephones, tablets, and computers. Evidence of these crimes committed on phones or tablets may also be found on computers as people back up telephones and other devices to their computers and data from the applications are therefore frequently stored on computers. I also know, based on my training and experience, that people who receive child pornography often download and save it on various electronic devices, sometimes moving it from one place to another (or saving on small, easy to hide devices like flash drives) in order to hide it from law enforcement detection.

21. The SUBJECT PREMISES is DION’s registered address with the New Hampshire sex offender registry. Through Nashua Police Department and NH DMV records, I have identified people who I believe to be DION’s sister (Aime Elizabeth Geddes-Dion) and parents (Paula Dion and Ryan Dion) as also residing at the SUBJECT PREMISES. I do not believe that the person DION referred to as his wife (who may not be legally married to him) resides

permanently at the SUBJECT PREMISES as her registered address is in Massachusetts but she may occasionally stay there as well.

COMPUTER ELECTRONIC STORAGE AND FORENSIC ANALYSIS

22. As described above and in Attachment B, this application seeks permission to search and seize records that might be found on the SUBJECT PREMISES, in whatever form they are found. One form in which the records might be found is data stored on a computer's hard drive or other storage media. Thus, the warrant applied for would authorize the seizure and search of electronic storage media or, potentially, the copying of electronically stored information, all under Rule 41(e)(2)(B).

23. I submit that if a computer or storage medium is found on the SUBJECT PREMISES, there is probable cause to believe those records will be stored on that computer or storage medium, for at least the following reasons:

a. Based on my knowledge, training, and experience, I know that computer files or remnants of such files can be recovered months or even years after they have been downloaded onto a storage medium, deleted, or viewed via the internet. Electronic files downloaded to a storage medium can be stored for years at little or no cost. Even when files have been deleted, they can be recovered months or years later using forensic tools. This is so because when a person "deletes" a file on a computer, the data contained in the file does not actually disappear; rather, that data remains on the storage medium until it is overwritten by new data.

b. Therefore, deleted files, or remnants of deleted files, may reside in free space or slack space—that is, in space on the storage medium that is not currently being

used by an active file—for long periods of time before they are overwritten. In addition, a computer's operating system may also keep a record of deleted data in a “swap” or “recovery” file.

c. Wholly apart from user-generated files, computer storage media—in particular, computers' internal hard drives—contain electronic evidence of how a computer has been used, what it has been used for, and who has used it. To give a few examples, this forensic evidence can take the form of operating system configurations, artifacts from operating systems or application operations, file system data structures, and virtual memory “swap” or paging files. Computer users typically do not erase or delete this evidence, because special software is typically required for that task. However, it is technically possible to delete this information.

d. Similarly, files that have been viewed via the internet are sometimes automatically downloaded into a temporary internet directory or “cache.”

e. Your Affiant is also aware, through training and experience, that digital storage devices have become interconnected, making it easy for even casual users of technology to transfer or copy images from one device to another, or to maintain duplicate copies on more than one device or storage medium. In fact, many devices such as smartphones can be set to automatically back up their contents to alternate storage facilities, such as laptop or desktop computers, another phone, photo-sharing websites, and cloud storage providers.

f. Your Affiant is aware that the contents of smart phones can be synched with or backed up to other digital devices in a variety of ways. Smartphones can be connected through cables to other devices, such as laptop computers, for data transfer.

Smartphones can also connect to other devices and transfer photos or documents wirelessly through technology such as Bluetooth. Data can also be sent from the phone to an email account via the Internet, and subsequently downloaded from the Internet to a different device (such as a tablet, game system, or computer) for storage. In addition, many smartphones utilize “cloud” storage. Cellular telephones can be set to automatically back up their contents to user accounts hosted on servers of various cloud storage providers. Users can also opt to perform a back-up manually, on an as-needed basis. Your Affiant is aware that some smartphones also back up their contents automatically to devices such as laptop computers. Additionally, cellular telephones can exchange data between two differing cellular communications devices and other types of electronic and media storage devices via Bluetooth or Wi-Fi, regardless of the type of operating system or platform being utilized to operate each of the electronic devices. In addition, media cards which contain many forms of data can be interchanged between multiple types of electronic devices, including but not limited to, different cellular telephones.

24. As set forth above, probable cause exists to believe that DION has attempted to receive child pornography by asking the UC who he thought was a 14-year-old girl to send him sexually explicit photographs of herself. Based upon my knowledge and experience in child pornography investigations, and the training and experience of other law enforcement officers with whom I have had discussions, I know that there are certain characteristics common to individuals involved in such crimes:

Those who distribute, transport, receive, or possess child pornography, or who attempt to commit these crimes may collect sexually explicit or suggestive materials, in a

variety of media, including photographs, magazines, motion pictures, videotapes, books, slides and/or drawings or other visual media. Such individuals often times use these materials for their own sexual arousal and gratification.

b. Those who distribute, transport, receive, or possess child pornography, or who attempt to commit these crimes often possess and maintain copies of child pornography material, that is, their pictures, films, video tapes, magazines, negatives, photographs, correspondence, mailing lists, books, tape recordings, etc., in the privacy and security of their home or some other secure location. These individuals typically retain pictures, films, photographs, negatives, magazines, correspondence, books, tape recordings, mailing lists, child erotica, and videotapes for many years.

c. Those who distribute, transport, receive, or possess child pornography, or who attempt to commit these crimes often maintain their collections that are in a digital or electronic format in a safe, secure and private environment, such as a computer and surrounding area. They often maintain these collections for several years and keep them close by, usually at the individual's residence, to enable the collector to view the collection, which is valued highly.

d. Those who distribute, transport, receive, or possess child pornography, or who attempt to commit these crimes also may correspond with and/or meet others to share information and materials; they rarely destroy correspondence from other child pornography distributors/collectors; they conceal such correspondence as they do their sexually explicit material; and they often maintain lists of names, addresses, and

telephone numbers of individuals with whom they have been in contact and who share the same interests in child pornography.

25. As further described in Attachment B, this application seeks permission to locate not only computer files that might serve as direct evidence of the crimes described on the warrant, but also for forensic electronic evidence that establishes how computers were used, the purpose of their use, who used them, and when. There is probable cause to believe that this forensic electronic evidence will be on any computer in the SUBJECT PREMISES accessible by DION because:

a. Data on the storage medium can provide evidence of a file that was once on the storage medium but has since been deleted or edited, or of a deleted portion of a file (such as a paragraph that has been deleted from a word processing file). Virtual memory paging systems can leave traces of information on the storage medium that show what tasks and processes were recently active. Web browsers, e-mail programs, and chat programs store configuration information on the storage medium that can reveal information such as online nicknames and passwords. Operating systems can record additional information, such as the attachment of peripherals, the attachment of USB flash storage devices or other external storage media, and the times the computer was in use. Computer file systems can record information about the dates files were created and the sequence in which they were created.

b. Forensic evidence on a computer or storage medium can also indicate who has used or controlled the computer or storage medium. This “user attribution” evidence is analogous to the search for “indicia of occupancy” while executing a search

warrant at a residence. For example, registry information, configuration files, user profiles, e-mail, e-mail address books, “chat,” instant messaging logs, photographs, the presence or absence of malware, and correspondence (and the data associated with the foregoing, such as file creation and last-accessed dates) may be evidence of who used or controlled the computer or storage medium at a relevant time.

c. A person with appropriate familiarity with how a computer works can, after examining this forensic evidence in its proper context, draw conclusions about how computers were used, the purpose of their use, who used them, and when.

d. The process of identifying the exact files, blocks, registry entries, logs, or other forms of forensic evidence on a storage medium that are necessary to draw an accurate conclusion is a dynamic process. While it is possible to specify in advance the records to be sought, computer evidence is not always data that can be merely reviewed by a review team and passed along to investigators. Whether data stored on a computer is evidence may depend on other information stored on the computer and the application of knowledge about how a computer behaves. Therefore, contextual information necessary to understand other evidence also falls within the scope of the warrant.

26. Based on my training and experience I know that much of the media referenced above, which may contain contraband, fruits and evidence of crime, is by its very nature portable. This includes as example but is not limited to extremely compact storage devices such as thumb drives, laptop computers, and smart phones. In my training and experience, I know it is not uncommon for individuals to keep such media in multiple locations within their premises, including in outbuildings and motor vehicles, and/or on their person.

27. Searching storage media for the evidence described in the attachment may require a range of data analysis techniques. In most cases, a thorough search for information stored in storage media often requires agents to seize most or all electronic storage media and later review the media consistent with the warrant. In lieu of seizure, it is sometimes possible to make an image copy of storage media. Generally speaking, imaging is the taking of a complete electronic picture of the computer's data, including all hidden sectors and deleted files. Either seizure or imaging is often necessary to ensure the accuracy and completeness of data recorded on the storage media, and to prevent the loss of the data either from accidental or intentional destruction. This is true because of the following:

a. **The nature of evidence.** As noted above, not all evidence takes the form of documents and files that can be easily viewed on site. Analyzing evidence of how a computer has been used, what it has been used for, and who has used it requires considerable time, and taking that much time on premises could be unreasonable. As explained above, because the warrant calls for forensic electronic evidence, it is exceedingly likely that it will be necessary to thoroughly search storage media to obtain evidence, including evidence that is not neatly organized into files or documents. Just as a search of a premises for physical objects requires searching the entire premises for those objects that are described by a warrant, a search of this premises for the things described in this warrant will likely require a search among the data stored in storage media for the things (including electronic data) called for by this warrant. Additionally, it is possible that files have been deleted or edited, but that remnants of older versions are in unallocated space or slack space. This, too, makes it exceedingly likely that in this case it will be necessary to use more thorough techniques.

b. **The volume of evidence.** Storage media can store the equivalent of millions of pages of information. Additionally, a suspect may try to conceal criminal evidence; he or she might store it in random order with deceptive file names. This may require searching authorities to peruse all the stored data to determine which particular files is evidence or instrumentalities of a crime. This sorting process can take weeks or months, depending on the volume of data stored, and it would be impractical and invasive to attempt this kind of data search on-site.

c. **Technical requirements.** Computers can be configured in several different ways, featuring a variety of different operating systems, application software, and configurations. Therefore, searching them sometimes requires tools or knowledge that might not be present on the search site. The vast array of computer hardware and software available makes it difficult to know before a search what tools or knowledge will be required to analyze the system and its data on-site. However, taking the storage media off-site and reviewing it in a controlled environment will allow its examination with the proper tools and knowledge.

d. **Variety of forms of electronic media.** Records sought under this warrant could be stored in a variety of storage media formats that may require off-site reviewing with specialized forensic tools.

28. Based on the foregoing, and consistent with Rule 41(e)(2)(B), when officers executing the warrant conclude that it would be impractical to review the hardware, media, or peripherals on-site, the warrant I am applying for would permit officers either to seize or to image-copy those items that reasonably appear to contain some or all of the evidence described in the warrant, and then later review the seized items or image copies consistent with the warrant. The

later review may require techniques, including but not limited to computer-assisted scans of the entire medium, that might expose many parts of a hard drive to human inspection in order to determine whether it is evidence described by the warrant.

BIOMETRIC ACCESS TO DEVICES

29. This warrant seeks authorization for law enforcement to compel David Dion to unlock any DEVICES requiring biometric access subject to seizure pursuant to this warrant. Grounds for this request follow.

30. I know from my training and experience, as well as from information found in publicly available materials published by device manufacturers, that many electronic devices, particularly newer mobile devices and laptops, offer their users the ability to unlock the device through biometric features in lieu of a numeric or alphanumeric passcode or password. These biometric features include fingerprint scanners, facial recognition features and iris recognition features. Some devices offer a combination of these biometric features, and the user of such devices can select which features they would like to utilize.

31. If a device is equipped with a fingerprint scanner, a user may enable the ability to unlock the device through his or her fingerprints. For example, Apple offers a feature called “Touch ID,” which allows a user to register up to five fingerprints that can unlock a device. Once a fingerprint is registered, a user can unlock the device by pressing the relevant finger to the device’s Touch ID sensor, which is found in the round button (often referred to as the “home” button) located at the bottom center of the front of the device. The fingerprint sensors found on devices produced by other manufacturers have different names but operate similarly to Touch ID.

32. If a device is equipped with a facial-recognition feature, a user may enable the ability to unlock the device through his or her face. For example, this feature is available on certain Android devices and is called "Trusted Face". During the Trusted Face registration process, the user holds the device in front of his or her face. The device's front-facing camera then analyzes, and records data based on the user's facial characteristics. The device can then be unlocked if the front-facing camera detects a face with characteristics that match those of the registered face. Facial recognition features found on devices produced by other manufacturers have different names but operate similarly to Trusted Face.

33. If a device is equipped with an iris-recognition feature, a user may enable the ability to unlock the device with his or her irises. For example, on certain Microsoft devices, this feature is called "Windows Hello." During the Windows Hello registration, a user registers his or her irises by holding the device in front of his or her face. The device then directs an infrared light toward the user's face and activates an infrared-sensitive camera to record data based on patterns within the user's irises. The device can then be unlocked if the infrared-sensitive camera detects the registered irises. Iris-recognition features found on devices produced by other manufacturers have different names but operate similarly to Windows Hello.

34. In my training and experience, users of electronic devices often enable the aforementioned biometric features because they are considered to be a more convenient way to unlock a device than by entering a numeric or alphanumeric passcode or password. Moreover, in some instances, biometric features are considered to be a more secure way to protect a device's contents.

35. As discussed in this Affidavit, I have reason to believe that one or more digital devices will be found during the search. The passcode or password that would unlock the DEVICES

subject to search under this warrant currently is not known to law enforcement. Thus, law enforcement personnel may not otherwise be able to access the data contained within the DEVICES, making the use of biometric features necessary to the execution of the search authorized by this warrant.

36. I also know from my training and experience, as well as from information found in publicly available materials including those published by device manufacturers, that biometric features will not unlock a device in some circumstances even if such features are enabled. This can occur when a device has been restarted, inactive, or has not been unlocked for a certain period of time. For example, Apple devices cannot be unlocked using Touch ID when: (1) more than 48 hours has elapsed since the device was last unlocked; or, (2) when the device has not been unlocked using a fingerprint for 8 hours and the passcode or password has not been entered in the last 6 days. Similarly, certain Android devices cannot be unlocked with Trusted Face if the device has remained inactive for four hours. Biometric features from other brands carry similar restrictions. Thus, in the event law enforcement personnel encounter a locked device equipped with biometric features, the opportunity to unlock the device through a biometric feature may exist for only a short time.

37. In light of the foregoing, and with respect to (1) any device found on the person of David Dion, or (2) any device at/on SUBJECT PREMISES reasonably believed to be owned, used, or accessed by David Dion, law enforcement personnel seek authorization, during execution of this search warrant, to: (1) press or swipe the fingers (including thumbs) of David Dion to the fingerprint scanner of the seized device(s); (2) hold the seized device(s) in front of the face of David Dion and activate the facial recognition feature; and/or (3) hold the seized device(s) in front of the face of David Dion and activate the iris recognition feature, for the

purpose of attempting to unlock the device(s) in order to search the contents as authorized by this warrant.

38. The proposed warrant does not authorize law enforcement to compel that an individual present at the SUBJECT PREMISES state or otherwise provide the password or any other means that may be used to unlock or access the DEVICES. Moreover, the proposed warrant does not authorize law enforcement to compel an individual present at the SUBJECT PREMISES to identify the specific biometric characteristics (including the unique finger(s) or other physical features) that may be used to unlock or access the DEVICES.

CONCLUSION

39. Based on the aforementioned factual information, I respectfully submit that there is probable cause to believe that evidence, fruits, and instrumentalities of the crime of receipt and attempted receipt of child pornography in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(2) and attempted enticement in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2422(b) may be located at the SUBJECT PREMISES. I therefore seek a warrant to search the SUBJECT PREMISES described in Attachment A and any computer and electronic media located therein, and to seize the items described in Attachment B.

40. I am aware that the recovery of data by a computer forensic analyst takes significant time; much the way recovery of narcotics must later be forensically evaluated in a lab, digital evidence will also undergo a similar process. For this reason, the “return” inventory will contain a list of only the tangible items recovered from the premises. Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, the return will not include evidence later examined by a forensic analyst.

Dated: January 13, 2021

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Shawn Serra
Shawn Serra
Special Agent
Homeland Security Investigations

The affiant appeared before me by telephonic conference on this date pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 41 and affirmed under oath the content of this affidavit and application.

Andrea K. Johnstone

Hon. Andrea K. Johnstone
United States Magistrate Judge
Dated: January 13, 2021



ATTACHMENT A
PREMISES TO BE SEARCHED

The premises to be searched includes:

- (1) The residential property located at 2 ½ Spaulding Street, Nashua, New Hampshire, (the SUBJECT PREMISES) a white single family residence on the corner of Spaulding Street and Alstead Ave. The front door to the residence is tan and has the number 2 ½ on the left hand side. The residence has a side/rear door, driveway and detached garage off Alstead Ave.
- (2) The person of David Dion.

The following photographs depict the SUBJECT PREMISES:



ATTACHMENT B
ITEMS TO BE SEIZED

The following materials, which constitute evidence of the commission of a criminal offense, contraband, the fruits of crime, or property designed or intended for use or which is or has been used as the means of committing a criminal offense, namely violations of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2252(a)(2) and 2422(b):

1. All records relating to violations of 18 U.S.C. §§2252(a)(2) and 2422(b) in any form wherever they may be stored or found at the SUBJECT PREMISES, including:
 - a. records and visual depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 2256;
 - b. records or information pertaining to an interest in child pornography;
 - c. communications with minor children or evidence of attempts to meet with minor children to engage in sexual activity;
 - d. records or information pertaining to the receipt of visual depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct, as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 2256;
 - e. records or information pertaining to use of the application Meet Me;
 - f. records or information relating to the occupancy or ownership of the SUBJECT PREMISES, including, but not limited to, utility and telephone bills, mail envelopes, vehicle registrations, tax bills, and other correspondence.
2. Any computer or electronic media that were or may have been used by David Dion as a means to commit the offenses described on the warrant, including the receipt of child pornography in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252(a)(2) or the attempted enticement of children in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2422(b)

3. For any computer, computer hard drive, or other physical object upon which electronic data can be recorded (hereinafter, "COMPUTER") that is called for by this warrant, or that might contain things otherwise called for by this warrant:

- a. evidence of who used, owned, or controlled the COMPUTER at the time the things described in this warrant were created, edited, or deleted, such as logs, registry entries, configuration files, saved usernames and passwords, documents, browsing history, user profiles, email, email contacts, "chat," instant messaging logs, photographs, and correspondence;
- b. evidence of software that would allow others to control the COMPUTER, such as viruses, Trojan horses, and other forms of malicious software, as well as evidence of the presence or absence of security software designed to detect malicious software;
- c. evidence of the lack of such malicious software;
- d. evidence of the attachment to the COMPUTER of other storage devices or similar containers for electronic evidence;
- e. evidence of counter-forensic programs (and associated data) that are designed to eliminate data from the COMPUTER;
- f. evidence of the times the COMPUTER was used;
- g. passwords, encryption keys, and other access devices that may be necessary to access the COMPUTER;
- h. documentation and manuals that may be necessary to access the COMPUTER or to conduct a forensic examination of the COMPUTER;

- i. contextual information necessary to understand the evidence described in this attachment;
- j. evidence of the crimes described above in paragraph 1 including but not limited to images of child pornography, the use of messaging applications like Meet Me or other similar messaging/dating applications, communications with minors, evidence of attempts or plans to meet minors for sexual activity.

4. Records and things evidencing the use of the Internet, including:

- a. routers, modems, and network equipment used to connect computers to the Internet;
- b. records of Internet Protocol addresses used;
- c. records of Internet activity, including firewall logs, caches, browser history and cookies, “bookmarked” or “favorite” web pages, search terms that the user entered into any Internet search engine, and records of user-typed web addresses.

5. DEVICE UNLOCK: During the execution of the search of the property described in Attachment A, and with respect to (1) any device on David Dion’s person, or (2) any device at/on SUBJECT PREMISES reasonably believed to be owned, used, or accessed by David Dion, law enforcement personnel are authorized to (1) press or swipe the fingers (including thumbs) of David Dion to the fingerprint scanner of the seized device(s); (2) hold the seized device(s) in front of the face of David Dion and activate the facial recognition feature; and/or (3) hold the seized device(s) in front of the face of that David Dion and activate the iris recognition feature, for the purpose of attempting to unlock the device(s) in order to search the contents as authorized by this warrant.

As used above, the terms “records” and “information” include all of the foregoing items of evidence in whatever form and by whatever means they may have been created or stored, including any form of computer or electronic storage (such as hard disks or other media that can store data); any handmade form (such as writing, drawing, painting); any mechanical form (such as printing or typing); and any photographic form (such as microfilm, microfiche, prints, slides, negatives, videotapes, motion pictures, or photocopies).

As used above, the term “COMPUTER” includes but is not limited to any and all computer equipment, including any electronic devices that are capable of collecting, analyzing, creating, displaying, converting, storing, concealing, or transmitting electronic, magnetic, optical, or similar computer impulses or data. These devices include but are not limited to any data-processing hardware (such as central processing units, memory typewriters, mobile “smart” telephones, tablets, and self-contained “laptop” or “notebook” computers); internal and peripheral storage devices (such as fixed disks, external hard disks, floppy disk drives and diskettes, thumb drives, flash drives, Micro SD cards, SD cards, CDs, DVDs, tape drives and tapes, optical storage devices, zip drives and zip disk media, and other memory storage devices); peripheral input/output devices (such as keyboards, printers, fax machines, digital cameras, scanners, plotters, video display monitors, and optical readers); and related communications devices (such as modems, routers, cables and connections, recording equipment, RAM or ROM units, acoustic couplers, automatic dialers, speed dialers, programmable telephone dialing or signaling devices, and electronic tone-generating devices); as well as any devices,

mechanisms, or parts that can be used to restrict access to such hardware (such as physical keys and locks).